

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION  
(Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Section 29.70  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)  
Re: Recreational Limit on Jumbo and Market Squid

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: July 11, 2006

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

- |     |                      |           |                  |
|-----|----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| (a) | Notice Hearing:      | Date:     | August 4, 2006   |
|     |                      | Location: | Sacramento, CA   |
| (b) | Discussion Hearings: | Date:     | October 6, 2006  |
|     |                      | Location: | San Diego, CA    |
|     |                      | Date:     | November 3, 2006 |
|     |                      | Location: | Redding, CA      |
| (c) | Adoption Hearing:    | Date:     | December 8, 2006 |
|     |                      | Location: | Santa Monica, CA |

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

While they have been a focus of sport and commercial fisheries off northern Mexico for many years, in California, jumbo squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) primarily have been taken only incidental to other recreational fisheries. However, in the past few years, jumbo squid appear to be increasingly prevalent off California, and accordingly have become a growing target for the State's recreational anglers. They can span up to six feet in length and weigh over 100 pounds, and are taken offshore by both private boats as well as the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) fleet.

As a result of increased fishing activity directed toward this resource, anglers have sought clarification from Department wardens and biological staff as to the bag limit on jumbo squid. Section 29.70 specifies that there is no recreational limit on "squid". Meanwhile, Section 29.05 specifies a "general invertebrate" limit of 35, which applies for any invertebrate species where a bag limit is not otherwise specified.

When one refers to "squid" in California waters, the term is commonly understood to mean the market squid, *Loligo opalescens*, which is readily abundant and is often used as bait for other game species in California waters. It is also the target of one of California's largest commercial fisheries.

Because no bag limit is specified for jumbo squid, anglers have sought clarification whether Section 29.70 applies to the take of jumbo squid, or if the general invertebrate limit of 35 is the regulation that governs. To clarify this situation, the Department proposes that the regulatory text of Section 29.70 be amended to specify that there is no limit on either jumbo squid or market squid.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 209, 210, 215, 218, and 220, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice publication:

None.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No alternatives were considered.

(b) No Change Alternative:

Should the Commission select the No Change Alternative, public confusion will continue regarding the bag limit for jumbo squid.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed change makes only a non-substantive, technical change to the regulations, to aid public understanding and reduce confusion.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

None. Modifying the definition of “squid” to make clear that there is no bag limit makes only a non-substantive, technical change to the regulations, to aid public understanding and reduce confusion.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

### Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

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Minor changes are proposed to improve the clarity of the regulations.